GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:327
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2017
Indians in Pak Jails
Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians in Pakistani prisons at present;

(b) the number of Indians in Pakistani prisons who have been extended legal help by the Government of India during the last two years and the current year;

(c) whether the Indian nationals are subjected to inhumane treatment in Pakistani jails and by investigating agencies and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of dead bodies of Indian nationals handed over by Pakistan during the last three years and the current year?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

*****

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 327 REGARDING "INDIANS IN PAK JAILS" FOR ANSWER ON 09.08.2017

As per the available information, there are 60 civilian prisoners including Shri Kulbhushan Jadhav and 416 fishermen, who are believed to be Indian, in the custody of Pakistan. Besides, there is a matter of 75 missing Indian defence personnel, whose custody has not been acknowledged by Pakistan so far.

Government from time-to-time provides humanitarian and legal assistance to Indian nationals imprisoned in Pakistan. This includes provision of items of daily use to Indian prisoners by the visiting officials of High Commission of India in Islamabad during consular access. Since 2014, Government has provided legal assistance to 3 Indian civilian prisoners in Pakistan. Besides, the case of Shri Kulbhushan Jadhav has been taken to the International Court of Justice.

From time-to-time, there have been reports of ill-treatment of Indian prisoners in Pakistan's custody. Government has consistently and strongly stressed on several occasions to the Government of Pakistan the latter's responsibility to ensure safety, security and well being of all Indian prisoners and fishermen who are in their custody.

Since 2014, 10 Indian fishermen and 2 Indian civil prisoners have died in the custody of Pakistan authorities. Mortal remains of all these prisoners were brought back to India, except in the case of late Shri Abu Bakar Nohri, who was buried in Pakistan as per the wishes of his family and as per Islamic rules.

*****